

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 24, 2003 has been received and reviewed. Claims 9-28 are pending and rejected in view of cited references. Claims 9-14, 16-22 and 24-28 are amended. Claims 15 and 23 are cancelled. Claims 29 and 30 are added. The Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance for the reasons stated hereinafter.

Objection To Drawings

The drawings are objected to for failure to show the "prism clamping lug" of claims 17, 23, 28 and for failure to show the "grooves" of claim 26. The objection is overcome by amendment of the claims.

Rejection Of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17 and 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. The examiner's rejection is overcome by clarifying amendment of the claims.

Rejection Of Claims 9, 15, 17-19 and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 9, 15, 17-19 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones, et al. (hereinafter "Jones"). As amended, claims 9, 17-19 and 26 each require a triangular-shaped blade plate which is not disclosed by Jones. Claim 15 is cancelled thereby making the rejection as to that claim moot. Thus, claims 9, 17-19 and 26 are not anticipated by Jones.

Rejection Of Claims 10, 11, 20, 21, and 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10, 11, 20, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Minshall. The Examiner states that Jones discloses the claimed invention, except for specific dimensions of the groove, but that Minshall teaches a groove in an insert having a 10° angle. The Applicants respectfully submit that Jones and Minshall are not combinable as suggested by the Examiner

because Minshall teaches an insert having a depression (31) which is arcuate in cross section and having a frustoconical clamping face with a 7° angle suitable for receiving the particularly shaped head of a clamping screw (33) therein. To be combinable, there must be a suggestion or motivation to replace the clamp member (42) of Jones with the clamping screw (33) of Minshall thereby necessitating the need for the particularly-shaped depression (31) of Minshall, and no such teaching or motivation is provided by the references. Even if combinable, the resulting combination would not obviate claims 10 and 11 which require a continuous groove extending between adjoining sides of the blade plate while Minshall merely teaches a depression of arcuate dimension to receive the head of a screw. Nor does any combination of Jones and Minshall obviate claim 20 which, as amended, requires a continuous linear groove. The rejection is moot with respect to claim 21, which is amended, and to claim 23, which is cancelled.

Rejection Of Claims 12, 16 and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 12, 16 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Alexander. The Examiner states that Jones discloses the claimed invention except that Jones does not disclose an insert in triangular form. The Examiner states that Alexander discloses a variety of cutting insert shapes as well as a variety of cutting insert recess shapes for a clamping arrangement having walls of the recess that are sloped, and that, therefore, it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art to modify Jones to the dimension claimed. As amended, claims 12, 16 and 24 require a continuous linear groove which, as stated in the present specification at paragraph [0014], stabilizes the blade plate to ensure against oscillation of the blade plate. Alexander teaches a discontinuous clamping surface and notes the advantage of such discontinuous clamping surface over a continuous clamping surface (see column 4, lines 44-57 of Alexander). Therefore, Alexander cannot be combined with Jones to obviate claims 12, 16 and 24.

Rejection Of Claims 13, 14, 22, 25, 27 and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 13, 14, 22, 25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones, et al., in view of Alexander and in further in view of Minshall. The Examiner states that Jones and Alexander disclose all of the elements of the claims, except both fail to specifically set forth dimensional characteristics regarding the transverse groove in the insert. With respect to claims 22, 27 and 28, the Examiner states that Jones and Alexander disclose all of the elements as set forth above and that Minshall further discloses a cutting tool system having a cutting insert with a groove that has a 10° angle, and it would have been obvious to coming Minshall's teaching with Jones and Alexander. For the reasons stated hereinabove, Alexander and Minshall do not teach a continuous linear groove in a cutting insert as claimed and, therefore, cannot be combined with Jones to obviate the claimed subject matter. Therefore, claims 13, 14, 22, 25, 27 and 28 are not obvious in view of the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments made and arguments presented, the Applicants submit claims 9-14, 16-22 and 24-30 present patentable subject matter.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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